

## **Regional Hot Issues Profile**

### **November 2009**

**Issue: Region 5 Presentation at National Environmental Public Health Conference**

**Background/Status:** Region 5 staff participated in a technical session at the 2009 National Environmental Public Health Conference on October 26-28, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference is sponsored by the Center for Disease Control. The purpose of the conference, titled "Healthy People in a Healthy Environment," is to improve the nation's environmental health capacity by enhancing the expertise of public health, healthcare, and environmental professionals, academic researchers, and representatives from communities, organizations, and advocacy and business groups with a primary interest in environmental public health.

The session was titled "Breaking it Down: Public Health Issues at Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Landfills." The session included perspectives of Region 5 projects at C&D landfills, health impacts of hydrogen sulfide from C&D landfills, experiences at C&D landfills in Florida, ongoing research and development efforts, and the efforts of a multi-agency workgroup formed by ATSDR to address public health issues at C&D landfills. It also included a presentation by a representative of a local community organization which has been significantly impacted by dust, odors and fires at the Coyote C&D landfill in Florida which received large amounts of hurricane debris. Several years after the debris from the storm was placed in this landfill, residents continue to experience significant environmental impacts with run-off, odors and dust as well as health problems associated with hydrogen sulfide exposure.

Approximately 25 public health officials attended the session.

**Message:**

- Region 5 continues to be responsive to requests to share information, data and experiences to deal with problem waste management facilities.

**Contact:** Jerri-Anne Garl, LCD, 312-353-1441